

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-9, and 14-17 are allowed.

Claim 12 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

For purposes of expediting prosecution, claims 2, 11, and 18-20 are cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant expressly reserves the right to refile cancelled claims 2, 11, and 18-20 in a subsequent application and contest the objections and rejections thereof in a subsequent application.

Claims 10, 12, and 13 are amended. Specifically, Applicant has amended claims 10 and 13 to change their dependency from claim 2 to claim 12. Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 12 (and claims 10 and 13 depending therefrom) should now be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2, 10-11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rieman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,110,080). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 2 and 11 and amendment of claims 10 and 13 has rendered moot the section 102 rejection thereof.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (314) 726-7502.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Anthony G. Fussner, 47,582

Dated: October 7, 2004

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